



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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*No letter in
System*

7-20-07

FTA-553806-UT

Ref: EPR-N

AUG - 3 2007

Charmaine Knighton, PE
Deputy Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region VIII
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 310
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-2583

RE: Utah Transit Authority (UTA): Mid Jordan
Transit Corridor FEIS, CEQ# 20070314

Dear Ms. Knighton:

In accordance with our responsibilities and authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Region 8 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed and is providing comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mid Jordan Transit Corridor.

Our review found the FEIS is responsive to many of EPA's concerns with the Draft EIS. However, our recommendation that the FEIS present both the cost and effectiveness of mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts for the affected residences was only partially addressed. The FEIS indicates that the noise wall barrier installation and quiet zones have been determined to be most effective for mitigation and will eliminate 64 (residential) residual noise impacts of the 71. The report does not appear to address the remaining seven residences where mitigation through sound barriers and quiet zones will have no effect. The report should indicate whether the alternative mitigation measures, such as building sound insulation, would adequately mitigate these residences. Finally, the report adequately discusses the mitigation measures for vibration impacts (final impact of eight residences) and indicates that the vibration mitigation measures that are most effective will be incorporated into design and construction specifications.

While this project is not without impacts, EPA's concerns have been addressed to our satisfaction. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments at this stage of the project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments, please contact me (303 312-6004) or Robin Coursen (303 312-6695) of my staff.

Sincerely,



Larry Svoboda
Director, NEPA Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

